



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

FWS541: DOCUMENTARY SCRIPT

Course Name (English)	DOCUMENTARY SCRIPT APPROVED
Course Code	FWS541
MQF Credit	4
Course Description	The course introduces students to the basic principles of writing documentary scripts for television and film. Students are exposed to various views regarding topics such as the history of documentaries, its definition, types of documentaries, and the role of researching a documentary. In addition, students are guided towards understanding, creating and addressing issues or topics that are appealing and have the potential of becoming a documentary. Notions of the subject matter, dramatic structure, and documentary conventions are identified towards writing an appropriate formatted script. It depicts the fundamentals of preparing for a documentary. The course focuses on writing a 10-minute to 20-minute documentary script.
Transferable Skills	Demonstrate ability to assess situations, analyse issues and create narratives that are imaginative yet meaningful.
Teaching Methodologies	Lectures, Blended Learning, Presentation, Workshop
CLO	CLO1 Apply and conceptualize the principles of documentary script writing in group scripts. CLO2 Critically analyze and present documentaries within its related context and conceptualization. CLO3 Produce a documentary script according to its required conventions.
Pre-Requisite Courses	No course recommendations
Topics	
1. Documentary: Introduction, history and the future 1.1) Background of the documentary	
2. Elements of the documentary 2.1) Components that make a documentary	
3. Time, development and structure 3.1) The mechanics of a documentary	
4. Documentary theory and issues of representation 4.1) Documentary as feature film	
5. Re-enactment, re-construction and docudrama 5.1) Forms and approaches of documentary	
6. Researching the documentary 6.1) Approaches to issues and subject matter	
7. Pitching and proposing the documentary 7.1) Pitching techniques and proposal writing	
8. Evaluation of the Documentary I 8.1) Case study of documentaries	
9. Evaluation of the Documentary II 9.1) Case study of documentaries	
10. Pitching the documentary 10.1) Presenting documentary ideas	
11. Outlines, treatments and scripts 11.1) Structuring the documentary	

12. Story design: Story basics 12.1) Types of stories to tell
13. Developing story ideas 13.1) Techniques of refining story ideas
14. Story approach and structure 14.1) Screen grammar and mechanics
15. Screen grammar and analysis 15.1) Writing style
16. Writing narration and voice-over 16.1) Writing style
17. Storytelling 17.1) Techniques of telling a story

Assessment Breakdown		%	
Continuous Assessment		100.00%	

Details of Continuous Assessment	Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Total Mark	CLO
	Assignment	In groups, students are to prepare a 20-minute documentary script.	40%	CLO1
	Assignment	Students are to prepare an individual 10-minute script.	40%	CLO3
	Presentation	In groups, students are to prepare a 15 – 20 minute presentation regarding a documentary that they have reviewed.	20%	CLO2

Reading List	Recommended Text	• Michael Rabiger 2014, <i>Directing the Documentary</i> , 6th Ed., Focal Press US [ISBN: 978041571930]
	Reference Book Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dara Waldron 2018, <i>New Non-Fiction Film: Art, poetics and documentary theory</i>, 1st Ed., Bloomsbury Academic London [ISBN: 978150132249] • Bill Nichols 2017, <i>Introduction to Documentary</i>, 3rd Ed., Indiana University Press Bloomington [ISBN: 978025302685] • Jon Fitzgerald 2017, <i>Filmmaking for change: Make films that transform the world</i>, 2nd Ed., Michael Wiese Productions Studio City, CA [ISBN: 978161593277] • Sheila Curran Bernard 2016, <i>Documentary Storytelling: Creative Non-Fiction on Screen</i>, 4th Ed., Focal Press New York [ISBN: 978041584330] • Bill Nichols 2016, <i>Speaking Truths with Film: Evidence, ethics, politics in documentary</i>, 3rd Ed., University of California Press Oakland, CA [ISBN: 978052029040] • Alan Rosenthal and Ned Eckhardt 2015, <i>Writing, Directing and Producing Documentary Films and Digital Videos</i>, 5th Ed., Southern Illinois University Press Illinois, US [ISBN: 978080933458]
Article/Paper List	This Course does not have any article/paper resources	
Other References	This Course does not have any other resources	